

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fingerboard comprising:

at least one fingerboard row for storing a plurality of threaded tubulars;

5 a plurality of latches connected to the at least one fingerboard row for lockingly retaining at least one threaded tubular, wherein each of the plurality of latches is movable between a locked position and an unlocked position; and

10 a row controller connected to each of the latches for individually and sequentially moving the latches between the locked and unlocked positions, wherein the row controller is manually operable from a location remote from the latches such that the latches are manually and remotely controlled.

15 2. The fingerboard of claim 1, wherein the row controller further comprises a piston having an elongated rod slidably disposed within a casing, and wherein the casing is connected to each of the plurality of latches such that movements of the elongated rod relative to the casing causes said individual and  
20 sequential movement of the latches between the locked and unlocked positions.

3. The fingerboard of claim 2, wherein the elongated rod is movable between a fully retracted position and a plurality of  
25 extended positions corresponding to each of the plurality of latches, such that in the fully retracted position each of the plurality of latches are in the locked position, and in each successive one of the plurality of extended positions a successive one of the corresponding plurality of latches is  
30 moved from the locked position to the unlocked position.

4. The fingerboard of claim 3, further comprising an air source connected to the casing, and wherein the casing has a plurality of exhaust ports in fluid connection therewith, and  
35 wherein each exhaust port corresponds to one of the plurality of

latches, and wherein in the fully retracted position each of the exhaust ports are covered by the elongated rod such that air from the air source cannot flow therethrough allowing each of the corresponding latches to be biased in the locked position,  
5 and wherein in each successive one of the plurality of extended positions a successive one of the plurality of exhaust ports is uncovered such that air flows through said exhaust port to force a successive one of the corresponding latches to be moved from the locked position to the unlocked position.

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5. The fingerboard of claim 3, wherein the row controller further comprises a piston guide into which at least a portion of the piston is slidably engaged; wherein the piston guide includes a plurality of stop positions; and wherein each of the  
15 stop positions corresponds to either the fully retracted position of the elongated rod or to one of the plurality of extended positions of the elongated rod.

6. The fingerboard of claim 5, wherein the piston comprises a  
20 handle that is slidably connected to the piston guide, such that successive movements of the handle causes the handle to engage a successive one of the plurality of stop positions.

7. The fingerboard of claim 5, wherein the piston guide  
25 comprises a multi-S-shaped guide, and wherein each end of each S-shape defines one of the stop positions.

8. The fingerboard of claim 5, wherein the piston is manually moveable to each of the plurality of stop positions.

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9. A fingerboard comprising:

at least one fingerboard row for storing a plurality of threaded tubulars;

a plurality of latches connected to the at least one  
35 fingerboard row, wherein each of the plurality of latches is

biased into a locked position and movable between the locked position and an unlocked position;

a piston having an elongated rod that is slidably engaged with a casing, wherein the casing has a plurality of exhaust  
 5 ports in fluid connection therewith, and wherein each of the plurality of exhaust ports is connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of latches; and

an air source in fluid connection with the casing, wherein the elongated rod is movable between a fully retracted position  
 10 and a plurality of extended positions corresponding to each of the plurality of exhaust ports, wherein in the fully retracted position each of the exhaust ports are covered by the elongated rod, such that air from the air source cannot flow therethrough allowing each of the corresponding latches to be biased in the  
 15 locked position, and wherein in each successive one of the plurality of extended positions a successive one of the plurality of exhaust ports is uncovered such that air flows therethrough to force a successive one of the corresponding latches to move from the locked position to the unlocked  
 20 position.

10. The fingerboard of claim 9, wherein the piston is manually moveable, such that the latches are manually controlled.

25 11. The fingerboard of claim 9, wherein the piston is manually moveable from a position remote from the plurality of latches, such that the latches are manually and remotely controlled.

12. The fingerboard of claim 9, further comprising a piston  
 30 guide into which the piston is slidably engaged, the piston guide having a plurality of stop positions, and wherein the piston is engageable to each of the stop positions and each of the stop positions corresponds to either the fully retracted position or to one of the plurality of extended positions of the  
 35 elongated rod.

13. The fingerboard of claim 12, wherein the piston comprises a handle that is slidably connected to the piston guide, such that successive movements of the handle causes the handle to engage successive ones of the plurality of stop positions.

14. The fingerboard of claim 12, wherein the piston guide comprises a multi-S-shaped guide, and wherein each end of each S-shape defines one of the stop positions.

15. The fingerboard of claim 9, wherein the elongated rod is biased away from the fully retracted position by air from the air source.

16. A fingerboard comprising:

at least one fingerboard row for storing a plurality of threaded tubulars;

a plurality of latches connected to the at least one fingerboard row, wherein each of the plurality of latches is biased into a locked position and movable between the locked position and an unlocked position;

a piston having an elongated rod that is slidably engaged with a casing, wherein the casing has a plurality of exhaust ports in fluid connection therewith,

a plurality of conduits, wherein each of the plurality of conduits fluidly connects one of the plurality of exhaust ports to a corresponding one of the plurality of latches;

an air source in fluid connection with the casing, wherein the elongated rod is movable between a fully retracted position and a plurality of extended positions corresponding to each of the plurality of exhaust ports, wherein in the fully retracted position each of the exhaust ports are covered by the elongated rod, such that air from the air source cannot flow therethrough allowing each of the corresponding latches to be biased in the locked position, and wherein in each successive one of the

plurality of extended positions a successive one of the plurality of exhaust ports is uncovered such that air flows therethrough to force a successive one of the corresponding latches to move from the locked position to the unlocked position; and

a piston guide connected to the piston and having a plurality of stop positions, wherein each of the plurality of stop positions corresponds to one of the plurality of extended positions of the elongated rod.

17. The fingerboard of claim 16, wherein the piston is manually moveable, such that the latches are manually controlled.

18. The fingerboard of claim 16, wherein the piston is manually moveable from a position remote from the plurality of latches, such that the latches are manually and remotely controlled.

19. The fingerboard of claim 16, wherein the piston comprises a handle that is connected to the piston guide, such that successive movements of the handle causes the handle to engage successive ones of the plurality of stop positions.

20. The fingerboard of claim 16, wherein the piston guide comprises a multi-S-shaped guide, and wherein each end of each S-shape defines one of the stop positions.

21. A method of storing a plurality of threaded tubulars in a fingerboard comprising:

providing a fingerboard row for storing the plurality of threaded tubulars;

providing a casing having a plurality of exhaust ports, wherein each of the plurality of exhaust ports corresponds to at least one of the plurality of threaded tubulars;

providing a piston having an elongated rod that is moveable relative to the casing;

connecting a plurality of latches to the fingerboard row,  
wherein each of the plurality of latches is connected to a  
corresponding one of the plurality of exhaust ports and each  
latch is biased to a closed position and moveable between the  
5 closed position and an opened position;

connecting an air source to the casing;

moving the elongated rod to a fully extended position such  
that each exhaust port is uncovered by the elongated rod and air  
from the air source enters each uncovered exhaust port and  
10 forces each of the latches into a unlocked position;

adding successive ones of the plurality of threaded  
tubulars to a position within the fingerboard row; and

moving the elongated rod to one of a plurality of retracted  
positions to cover the corresponding exhaust port of each added  
15 threaded tubular causing each latch to be biased from the  
unlocked position to the locked position to lock each added  
threaded tubular to the fingerboard row.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the piston is manually  
20 moveable, such that the latches are manually controlled.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the piston is manually  
moveable from a position remote from the plurality of latches,  
such that the latches are manually and remotely controlled.

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24. The method of claim 21, further comprising releasing  
successive ones of the locked threaded tubulars by moving the  
elongated rod to uncover the corresponding exhaust port of each  
threaded tubulars to be removed forcing each latch to be moved  
30 from the locked position to the unlocked position and allowing  
each unlocked threaded tubulars to be removed from the  
fingerboard row.

25. The method of claim 22, further comprising connecting the  
35 piston to a piston guide that has a plurality of stop positions,

wherein each of the plurality of stop positions corresponds to one of the plurality of retracted positions of the elongated rod.

- 5 26. The method of claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of latches is biased toward the locked position.